

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification and claims to more particularly define the invention taking into consideration the outstanding Official Action. Applicants most respectfully submit that all of the claims now present in the application are in full compliance with 35 USC 112 and are clearly patentable over the references of record for the following reasons. In view of the amendments to the specification and claims it is most respectfully requested that the rejections under 35 USC 112 be withdrawn.

Applicants wish to point out that the presently claimed invention relates to a process for sawing a substrate strip having a plurality of substrate areas by a saw machine. According to the process of the present invention, a plurality of alignment marks and cutting marks are disposed around each individual substrate area on the substrate strip, and the saw machine is positioned with respect to each individual substrate area in accordance with the alignment marks therearound.

According to the preferred embodiment, the substrate strip 100 has a longitudinal axial and a lateral axial and the substrate areas 110 are disposed along the longitudinal axial, the saw machine is positioned with respect to the first substrate area 110 according to the alignment marks 111 along the longitudinal axial from the left and cuts the substrate strip 100 according to cutting tracks 101 defined by the cutting marks 112 parallel to the lateral axial. Then, the saw machine is positioned with respect to the second substrate area 110 from the left and then cuts the substrate strip 100. Therefore, the cutting error resulted from each substrate area 110 will not accumulate to the subsequent substrate areas in the substrate strip 100, thereby ensuring the cutting accuracy for the packaged substrate.

After all substrate areas 110 are cut in the lateral direction of the substrate strip 100, the saw machine cuts the substrate strip 100 along the longitudinal axial thereof according to cutting tracks 101 defined by the cutting marks 112 parallel to the longitudinal axial. The specification and claims have been amended to more clearly

define the above, but no new matter has been introduced as would be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains.

The rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Neu has been carefully considered but is most respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to the specification and claims. It is believed that the new claims more clearly define the invention and set forth the distinguishing features.

Applicants most respectfully submit that the Neu '337; reference teaches an apparatus for separating and trimming of the circuit devices comprises a pallet including pneumatic means engagable with the encapsulated products for releasably holding one or more carrier strips. A cutting means at a first station having a reciprocable frame comprises a plurality of rotating circular cutter blades, each having circumferentially spaced cutting teeth. The first reciprocable frame receives the carrier for movement in a first path so that the teeth project through the plane of each carrier strip supported on the pallet to thereby effect a separation of the circuit devices from each other. Means are provided for limiting the projection of the cutter blades so that only the teeth, as opposed to the blade side edges, extend into the strip material. As the teeth rotate, each tooth draws air into the cut, thereby preventing the generation of heat in an amount liable to damage the delicate circuit devices. The invention further comprises cutting means at a second station having a second reciprocable frame for moving the carrier in a second path preferably parallel to the first to effect the trimming of the strip material from the circuit devices along lines which are extended transversely of the cut by the cutters in the first path. Means between the first and second stations for rotating the carrier through 90.degree. prior to effecting the second cut is also preferably provided. (see Col. 2, lines 19-43)

Applicants most respectfully submit that the Neu '337 reference fails to teach or suggest the features that the alignment marks and cutting marks are disposed around each individual substrate area on the substrate strip, and the saw machine are positioned with respect to each individual substrate area in accordance with the alignment marks therearound. Each individual substrate area on the substrate strip is sawed by the saw machine respectively according to cutting tracks defined by the

cutting marks. Therefore, Neu '337; reference does not teach the solution to preventing the cutting error for each individual substrate area from accumulating to the subsequent substrate areas in the substrate strip.

Based on the above remarks, the present invention defined in the amended claims is believed patentably distinguishable over the cited reference. Therefore, the cited reference neither anticipates the instant invention nor renders the instant invention obvious. The instant invention is patentable over the citation. It is therefore respectfully requested that the amended claims 7 to 12 be allowed so that the entire case may be passed to early issuance.

In view of the above comments and further amendments to the specification, abstract and claims, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now present in the application are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

By: Richard E. Fichter
Richard E. Fichter
Registration No. 26,382

625 Slaters Lane, 4th Fl.
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: (703) 683-0500
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

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